

Message Text

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P 100000Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029950

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. FOR THE AMBASSADOR: THE LETTER FOR THE INDIVIDUAL
DICK TALKED TO WAS SENT TO YOU FE3. 9 UNDER REGISTRY
NO. 1663576.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GROMYKO CELEBRATES 20 YEARS IN
OFFICE ON FEBRUARY 15. PLEASE CONFIRM AND LET US KNOW
IF YOU THINK A MESSAGE TO HIM WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

3. WE ARE SENDING OUT AN UNCLASSIFIED CABLE LISTING THE
SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS RESIDENT IN THE US--A TOTAL OF 34
INCLUDING ALEKSEYEV, WHO PRESUMABLY WILL BE REPLACED.
YOU MIGHT WISH TO SEND A COMPARABLE CABLE LISTING AMERICAN
CORRESPONDENTS IN THE USSR FOR GENERAL REFERENCE
PURPOSES IN WASHINGTON.

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4. WE REALIZE OF COURSE THAT ASKING FOR APPOINTMENTS FOR
THE PROPOSED GILMAN-BREITENBERG TRIP COULD CAUSE SOME
PROBLEMS, BUT WE FELT WE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ASK
YOU TO DO SO. BREITENBERG APPARENTLY WENT TO THE SOVIET
EMBASSY AND WROTE OUT AT THE EMBASSY A LIST OF WHAT THE
PAIR WANT TO DO IN MOSCOW, AND HE DID NOT KEEP A COPY FOR

HIMSELF. WE ARE NOT REALLY SURE WHAT HE WROTE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE TOLD US INITIALLY THAT THEY ONLY WANTED TO TALK TO AMEMBASSY PERSONNEL ABOUT US FOREIGN BROADCASTS. WE LEARNED FROM KRUGLOV THAT HE HAD INDICATED AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY THAT THEY WANTED TO TALK TO SOVIET OFFICIALS ABOUT WHAT THE SOVIETS THINK OF VOA. WE CHECKED BACK WITH BREITENBERG WHO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD SO INFORMED THE SOVIETS.

5. NATASHA LELAND OF CEC CALLED DEPT. FEBRUARY 9 TO ADVISE THAT INTOURIST HAD SWITCHED THE TRAVEL DATES IN THE USSR OF THE YALE RUSSIAN CHORUS. AS A RESULT, THE ONLY TIME THEY WOULD HAVE FREE TO PERFORM AT SPASO HOUSE WOULD BE SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 26.

MS. LELAND HAS REQUESTED RECONFIRMATION OF NEW DATES FROM INTOURIST AND WILL HERSELF BE GETTING IN TOUCH WITH YOU WHEN THEY ARE CONFIRMED. SHE VERY APOLOGETICALLY WONDERED WHETHER NEW TIME OF SATURDAY, MARCH 26, MIGHT BE FREE ON AMBASSADOR AND MRS. TOON'S SCHEDULE.

6. MARINE CARGO INSURANCE. WE HAVE NOT GIVEN YOU A CABLE ON THE LONDON TALKS, BECAUSE THERE HAS TO BE SOME SORTING OUT BACK HERE BETWEEN THE USG AND THE AIMU. DURING THE TALKS THE SOVIETS PUSHED HARD WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT US UNDERWRITERS HAD NOT TRIED HARD ENOUGH TO OBTAIN BUSINESS THROUGH DIRECT CONTACTS WITH INGOSTRAKH AND THE SOVIET FTO'S. BLACKWELL IN RESPONSE ENUMERATED
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THE NUMEROUS FRUITLESS EFFORTS WHICH THE UNDERWRITERS HAVE MADE OVER THE YEARS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM THROUGH DIRECT CONTACT. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO RECOMMEND THAT THE AIMU TRY AGAIN IF THE CLIMATE HAD IMPROVED, AS SOVIET NEGOTIATOR IVANOV SUGGESTED. THE IDEA ON OUR SIDE IS THAT A GROUP FROM THE AIMU WOULD GO TO MOSCOW UNDER THE AEGIS OF MARAD AND STATE, WITH YOU FULLY INVOLVED, TO MAKE THE PITCH FOR COOPERATION ON INSURANCE. WE MAY CALL THE GROUP AN INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON MARINE INSURANCE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO AN UNDERSTANDING REACHED BY BLACKWELL AND IVANOV. THE TWO GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATORS WOULD THEN MEET IN MAY TO ANALYZE THE RESULTS OF THE DIRECT TALKS. WE ARE DISCUSSING THIS NOW WITH THE AIMU.
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